

## COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Island County Council of Governments met in Regular Session on September 28, 2011 in the Island County Commissioner's Hearing Room at 1 NE 6th Street, Coupeville, Washington. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Conard at 9:02 a.m.

*The Council of Governments Minutes and recordings of meetings may be located at <http://www.islandcounty.net/commissioners/documents/2011/2011COG.html>*

**Members Present:** Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville  
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner  
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port District  
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner  
Jim Slowik, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor  
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port District

**Also Present:** Marilyn Abrahamson, FAIRS (Freeland Advocates for Informed, Responsible Solutions)  
Walt Blackford, Puget Sound Energy  
Keith Higman, Island County Public Health  
Jeff Lauderdale, Coupeville resident  
Jennifer Meyer, NAS Whidbey Island  
Ron Nelson, Island County Economic Development Council  
Rufus R. Rose, Old Goats  
Robert Waterman, City Council of Langley

Chair Conard introduced Bob Waterman who was representing the City of Langley in Mayor Samuelson's absence.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Commissioner Weber moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting August 24, 2011. Commissioner Gordon seconded. By unanimous motion the minutes of the Regular Meeting August 24, 2011 were approved.*

### **APPROVAL OF SUSTAINABLE WHIDBEY COALITION VOUCHER**

Chair Conard distributed a copy of the voucher for the consulting services provided by Britt Conn, in the amount of \$1,443.75 plus reimbursement for supplies, in the amount of \$27.75.

*Mayor Slowik moved and Commissioner Weber seconded a motion to approve payment of the voucher. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **ISLAND COUNTY TOURISM PROMOTION UPDATE – SHERRY WYATT**

While showing a Power Point presentation about Whidbey Camano Island Tourism, Ms. Wyatt presented details about the changes since the Washington State Department of Commerce has stopped publicly funding tourism. As a result, the Washington Tourism Alliance, a public/private partnership was formed. Whidbey Camano Islands Tourism joined as an associate founding member. Wyatt distributed a copy of her presentation which is attached as Schedule A.

COG members commented on the benefits for their respective constituents of membership in the Washington Tourism Alliance and of local statistical analysis of tourism.

## **PROPOSED UPDATE TO JAB INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – HELEN PRICE JOHNSON**

Prior to the meeting, Price Johnson presented an electronic copy of the proposed agreement to the members of the COG. She stated that the legal authorities from the incorporated COG members have signed off on this latest revision and noted the changes made since the last meeting. She said if there was no objection that she would circulate the agreement to incorporated areas for signature in an open public meeting. Bob Waterman was unsure of Mayor Samuelson's position. Mayor Slowik stated that the City of Oak Harbor is happy with the changes made. Mayor Conard stated that the Town of Coupeville has no further changes.

## **ECONOMIC UPDATE – RON NELSON, ISLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Ron Nelson gave a Power Point presentation on the economy in Island County. He presented detailed figures on unemployment and taxable retail sales. (A copy is attached as Schedule B.) Mayor Conard commented on how government and commercial construction can effect retail sales tax revenue. Nelson suggested that the Naval Air Station (which is not included in State unemployment calculations) is a stabilizing factor in North Whidbey. He quoted an article from the Puget Sound Business Journal that stated that fifty percent of Boeing employees are eligible for retirement in the next five years. Nelson pointed out that Snohomish County is preparing to fill those gaps.

Nelson distributed copies of "Revenue Review: September 15, 2011", the Executive summary and presentation from Arun Raha, Chief Economist, Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. (A copy is attached as Schedule C.)

Nelson stated that the Island County Biz Expo is set for October 15 and 16 in Coupeville.

## **LOCAL INTEGRATING ORGANIZATION (LIO) UPDATE - KEITH HIGMAN**

Last month the COG supported the LIO policy development committee (also know has the technical advisory group) in their effort to make pre-proposals for grant opportunities arising from a number of funding streams through a variety of state agencies. Higman gave an summary of the five pre-proposals reviewed and submitted for consideration by this committee: 1) Island County Planning – with regard to the Shoreline Master Program, to

evaluate and update protection of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, 2) Whidbey Island Conservation District - to design a project in Ebey's Prairie to eliminate water quality impairment by treating stormwater through the use of phytoremediation or a constructed wetland system prior to its entry into the Sound at Ebey's Landing, 3) Town of Coupeville – to construct a subsurface wetland mitigation area to reduce nutrient loading and other pollutants entry into Penn Cove, 4) Skagit River System Co-operative - to quantify the impacts of bulkheads on Puget Sound Ecology and; 5) Tulalip Tribes to develop a predictive model to identify coastal streams with salmon habitat used for resource management activities consistent with Island County's critical areas ordinance. Higman will report back to the COG as the LIO Executive Committee, on the results of these pre-proposals.

Morgan Schneider who was unable to attend this meeting asked Higman to set up a meeting time with the COG to give its input on the draft proposal for the Action Agenda Update. A tentative meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 10:00 was scheduled. Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> was offered as an alternate date. Higman will coordinate with Debbie Thompson.

#### **SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER COG MEETINGS:**

Chair Conard stated that the Update from Puget Sound Energy on their storm planning and their five year level of service update is scheduled for the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Our legislators are available to meet as follows to discuss the COG's legislative priorities: November 9 from 9:00 – 11:00 for Barbara Bailey and Norma Smith; and December 14 from 9:00 – 11:00 for Mary Margaret Haugen.

After discussion, the COG confirmed a meeting on October 26 from 8:00 to 10:00 and agreed to the dates for meeting the legislators. Meetings on November 23 and December 28 were canceled.

#### **OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST**


The COG discussed how administrative support for the COG will be handled for the balance of the year. Commissioner Weber agreed to attempt to secure someone from the Port of Coupeville to provide support for the October meeting. It was suggested that the City of Langley take responsibility for the meetings on November 9 and December 14. Council Member Waterman will take this information to Mayor Samuelson.

Chair Conard reminded the members to bring their proposed legislative priorities to the meeting on October 26.

Commissioner Emerson distributed to the members of the COG, for their consideration, a copy of her preliminary proposal for Five Year Emergency Statutory Relief on Juvenile Detention Mandate. She stated that this proposal has not yet been presented to the Board of Island County Commissioners. (A copy is attached as Schedule D).

As there was no further business, Chair Conard adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Dated this 26th day of October, 2011.

  
APPROVED